

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 01083 01 OF 02 310918Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3289
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

C O N N I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 01083

E.O. 11652 XGDSS1
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SP
SUBJECT: POLITICAL MISCELLANY

1. SOCIALIST UNITY? THE POSSIBILITY OF SOCIALIST
UNITY HAS ONCE AGAIN BECOME A FRONT-PAGE NEWS ITEM
WITH THE PRIVATE DINNER LAST WEEK OF PSOE SECGEN
FELIPE GONZALEZ WITH PSP PRESIDENT TIerno GALVAN.
AFTER THEIR MEETING BOTH LEADERS WERE OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT UNITY PROSPECTS AND ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION
OF A MIXED PSOE-PSP COMMISSION TO STUDY THE DETAILS.
SOCIALIST UNITY BEFORE THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS CLEARLY
WOULD STRENGTHEN THE PSOE'S POSITION, PARTICULARLY
IN THE LARGER TOWNS AND CITIES, AND THERE ALREADY
ARE RUMORS OF A TIerno CANDIDACY FOR MAYOR OF MADRID
AT THE HEAD OF A UNITY SLATE. OVER THE WEEKEND
TIerno TOLD THE PRESS HE WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING
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PAGE 02 MADRID 01083 01 OF 02 310918Z

SUCH A POSSIBILITY. (COMMENT: SOCIALIST UNITY TALKS
HAVE BEEN ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN FOR SOME TIME NOW. BUT
THE APPARENT DECOMPOSITION OF PSP MAY BE MAKING TIerno
MORE FLEXIBLE, WHILE THE OBVIOUS PAYOFF IN THE
MUNICIPALS FOR UNIFIED CANDIDACIES MAY ALSO BE
MAKING THE PSOE MORE ACCOMMODATING. WE NOTE, FOR
EXAMPLE, THAT A FUSION CANDIDACY HEADED BY TIerno WOULD

BE HARD TO BEAT IN MADRID.)

2. PSOE'S MADRID FEDERATION REELECTS INCUMBENTS. IN SPITE OF PREDICTIONS THAT THE INCUMBENT MADRID EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, HEADED BY ALONSO PUERTA AND BACKED BY THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP, MIGHT BE DEFEATED BY AN ALTERNATE CANDIDACY LED BY MADRID "LEFTIST" FRANCISCO BUSTELO AND BACKED BY MAVERICK PABLO CASTELLANO, THE CONFLICTIVE FEDERATION'S WEEKEND CONGRESS APPEARS TO HAVE COME OUT AS THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP DESIRED. FIRST, THE PERFORMANCE ("GESTION") OF THE INCUMBENT LEADERSHIP WAS APPROVED NARROWLY BY THE ASSEMBLED DELEGATES, REPORTEDLY WITH 4,273 VOTES IN FAVOR, 3,814 OPPOSED, AND 909 ABSTENTIONS (THE FEW HUNDRED DELEGATES, MEETING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, CAST VOTES EQUAL TO THE NUMBER OF FEDERATION MEMBERS REPRESENTED). LATER, THE INCUMBENT-BACKED SLATE, HEADED BY PUERTA AND PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE JOSE PRAT, REPORTEDLY DEFEATED THE BUSTELO-LED TICKET. (THE ELDERLY PRAT IS THE RESPECTED FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE PSOE "HISTORICAL" SECTOR, WHO CAME OVER TO THE PSOE AFTER THE JUNE 1977 ELECTIONS.)

3. FRAGA'S AP CONGRESSES. AFTER MUCH TALK OF RENOVATION, FOLLOWED BY REPORTS OF THREATENED DEFECTIONS BY AP YOUNG TURK LIBERALS LIKE CARLOS ARGOS IF SUCH A RENOVATION DID NOT
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PAGE 03 MADRID 01083 01 OF 02 310918Z

EVENTUATE, THE WEEKEND AP CONGRESS APPEARS TO HAVE RESULTED IN NEITHER.

-- FRAGA WAS REELECTED SEC GEN OF BOTH THE UNITED PARTY AND THE AP FEDERATION (SILVA MUNOZ' ADE AND FERNANDEZ DE LA MORA'S UNE REMAIN OUTSIDE THE UNIFIED PARTY BUT WITHIN THE FEDERATION). SILVA WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION, WITH BOTH FERNANDEZ DE LA MORA AND LOPEZ RODO (TWO PUTATIVE VICTIMS OF THE RENOVATION PROCESS ADVOCATED BY ARGOS AND OTHERS) CHOSEN VICE PRESIDENTS.

-- FELIX PASTOR RIDRUEJO WAS NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE UNIFIED PARTY, WITH ARGOS AND ISABEL BARROSO, ANOTHER "DISSIDENT," AMONG THE VICE PRESIDENTS. CONSEQUENTLY, WHILE THERE WAS A MODEST INFUSION OF NEW BLOOD IN THE LEADERSHIP, AP'S CONTINUING CONSERVATIVE MAKEUP ONCE AGAIN BELIES FRAGA'S INSISTENCE THAT THE FEDERATION/PARTY REPRESENTS THE SPANISH CENTER-RIGHT, RATHER THAN THE RIGHT.

4. PCE CONTINUES ON DEFENSIVE. SEC GEN SANTIAGO CARRILLO

HAS CONTINUED IN RECENT DAYS TO POINT WITH CONCERN AT AN ALLEGED CAMPAIGN BY THE POLITICAL RIGHT, THE US AND THE USSR TO SMEAR THE PCE (MADRID 0809 AND PREVIOUS). ACCORDING TO "EL PAIS," HE ALSO TOLD AN AUDIENCE IN ASTURIAS OVER THE WEEKEND THAT THE US AND "INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL DEMOCRACY" WERE WORKING TO INSTALL A TWO-PARTY SYSTEM (I.E. UCD-PSOE) IN SPAIN. CARRILLO REPORTEDLY WAS HECKLED DURING ONE ASTURIAN RALLY WHEN HE INSISTED THAT PARTY PRESIDENT DOLORES IBARRURI (LA PASIONARIA) RETAIN HER PARLIAMENTARY SEAT FROM THE PROVINCE (AN

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PAGE 01 MADRID 01083 02 OF 02 301850Z POSS DUPE
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C O N N I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MADRID 01083

APPARENTLY SUBSTANTIAL SECTOR OF THE PCE'S ASTURIAN ORGANIZATION HAS CALLED PUBLICLY FOR IBARRURI TO RETIRE AND FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE PARTY'S GERIATRIC PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP -- SEE 77 MADRID 7819).

5. A LOCAL AMERICAN JOURNALIST TELLS US SELF-STYLED "DISSIDENT" CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER JOAQUIN BOLLO MURO WENT ON AT GREAT LENGTH WITH HIM RECENTLY CONCERNING ALLEGED SERIOUS TENSIONS WITHIN THE PARTY AS THE RESULT OF THE SEMPRUN ATTACK (MADRID 0205) AND GROWING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FORMER EXILES, LIKE CARRILLO, AND LEADERS WHO HAD REMAINED IN SPAIN THROUGHOUT THE DICTATORSHIP, LIKE SANCHEZ MONTERO. BOLLO MURO

PORTRAYED CARRILLO AS BEING IN SERIOUS TROUBLE WITHIN THE PARTY AND PREDICTED HE WOULD BE SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED AT THE APRIL CONGRESS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MADRID 01083 02 OF 02 301850Z POSS DUPE

6. CONTINUING OUTRAGE OVER VIOLA ASSASSINATION. SHOCK AT THE SAVAGE SLAYING OF FORMER BARCELONA MAYOR JOAQUIN VIOLA AND HIS WIFE (MADRID 0869) PERSISTS, PARTICULARLY WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE POLICE THAT THE SUSPECTS IN THE CASE, IDENTIFIED FROM PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE VIOLA FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD STAFF, INCLUDE AT LEAST THREE OF THE ALLEGED FOUR SLAYERS OF CATALAN INDUSTRIALIST JOSE MARIA BULTO IN MAY 1977 (MADRID 77-3628). THE FOUR WERE LATER AMNESTIED BY THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES AFTER THE FINAL POLITICAL AMNESTY DECREE WAS PROMULGATED LATE LAST YEAR. INTERIOR MINISTER MARTIN VILLA ALREADY HAD APPEALED THEIR RELEASE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEIRS WAS A COMMON CRIME WHICH DID NOT FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE AMNESTY DECREE. THE APPEAL IS NOW BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT, BUT THE FOUR RELEASED SUSPECTS HAVE LONG SINCE DISAPPEARED.

7. MEANWHILE, VIOLENCE IN SPANISH PRISONS PERPETRATED BY PRISONERS INCARCERATED FOR COMMON CRIMES AND NOT AFFECTED BY THE SERIES OF AMNESTIES/PARDONS INITIATED IN THE SUMMER OF 1976 CONTINUES. OVER THE WEEKEND THE PRISON IN MALAGA REPORTEDLY WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY DESTROYED AS THE RESULT OF VANDALISM AND FIRES SET BY THE PRISONERS THEMSELVES. ALTHOUGH AN AMNESTY FOR COMMON CRIMINALS HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY A GROUP OF SENATORS, NEITHER UCD NOR THE PSOE SUPPORTS THE CALL, AND RECENT EVENTS HAVE SERVED TO REINFORCE THE FEELING IN SOME QUARTERS THAT THE AMNESTIES ALREADY HAD GONE TOO FAR, WHILE STRENGTHENING THE CONVICTION OF MANY OTHERS THAT WHATEVER HAS GONE BEFORE, ANY FURTHER AMNESTIES ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION. A PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING PRISON CONDITIONS, HOWEVER, AND WE MAY SEE RAPID MOVEMENT ON PENAL REFORM

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PAGE 03 MADRID 01083 02 OF 02 301850Z POSS DUPE

GENERALLY AND SOME REVIEW OF SENTENCES ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. STABLER

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